



Touching the soul



The world isn't always as simple as black and white or yin and yang; that's the message choreographer Wang Yuanqing aims to show in his steps.

Titled *White Night*, the performance debuts at BeijingDance/LDTX this month. The piece demands endurance from the audience but repays by provoking thought.

Read more on Page 6



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Season to shape up

It may be cold indoors, but summer and swimsuit season are just around the corner. Get a jump start on getting in shape!

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Legendary monk's tomb in trouble

Best remembered for his journey to India, the monk Xuanzong's relics are facing disrepair and demolition.



Guangdong enterprise China's first to receive UN award



From left: Hao Chun, Tan Mingzhuo, Nick Nuttall

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

By Liu Xiaochen

A private enterprise in Guangdong that focuses on water purification has become the first Chinese company to partner with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Guangdong Wealth Environmental Protection will be UNEP's strategic partner for the next three years as a Champions of Earth sponsor, the UN's flagship environmental award given to those whose actions and leadership have a positive impact on the environment. UNEP's former partner was LG.

"We are delighted to wel-

come Guangdong Wealth as the strategic corporate partner of Champions of the Earth – an award that each year provides inspiration for world leaders to take the bold decisions needed to put the world on the pathway to a resource-efficient, low-carbon future," UNEP's Director of Communications Nick Nuttall said at the press conference on April 15.

UNEP's legal department will audit the enterprise in all aspects. At the same time, the company should be interested in the UN's related issues.

UNEP cannot be alone in

governance of the environment, Nuttall said. "It needs the private sectors, community, government and the other international organizations of the UN getting together to face the challenge of environmental problems."

Guangdong Wealth is a high-tech environmental protection enterprise based in Jiangmen, Guangdong Province. It is the largest manufacturer of industrial wastewater purifying and sedimentation agents in China.

According to the company's CEO Tan Mingzhuo, fulfilling social responsi-

bility is necessary to stay competitive. It has become an important symbol to measure corporate image around the world.

"We were among the first to practice a business model that puts social welfare before economic interests," Tan said. "We regard the society as a customer."

The company has invested in environmental scholarships for university students, organized clean-up operations and donated 2,000 tons of purifying tablets to clean up sections of a polluted river in Guangdong in 2005.

Hao Chun, secretary-

general of China Association of Environmental Protection Industry, said there was still a gap of 20 years between China's environmental protection industry and that of developed countries.

"Developed countries pay more attention to the ecological aspects, such as green energy, while China pays more attention to pollution prevention aspects," Hao said.

"We still need much more effort ... to solve environmental problems so that we may follow in the footsteps of the world," Hao said.

Visa laws to change in July

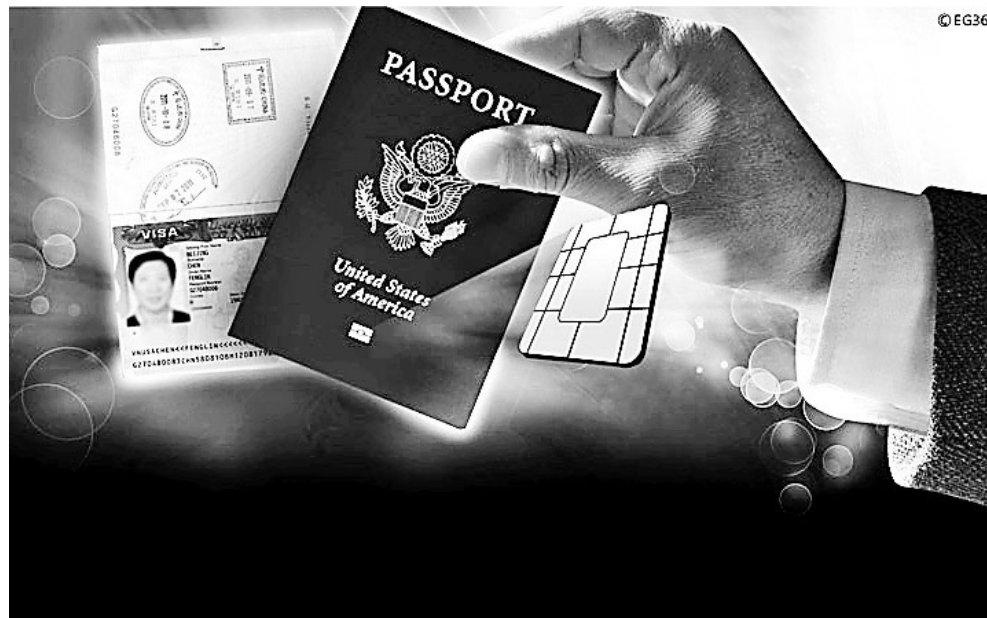
By Liu Xiaochen

China's new Exit and Entry Administration Law will be implemented on July 1.

The new law requires foreigners to go to their local entry-exit administrative institution to apply for visa extensions seven days before expiration. Foreigners must also apply for an extension of their residence cards at least 30 days before their expiration.

"That means foreigners cannot wait until the last day before their visas or residence cards expire to apply for an extension," said Xu Ruoxin, an officer at the Exit-Entry office.

The Exit-Entry Administration Corps of Beijing, Municipal Public Security Bureau and European Union Chamber of Com-



CFP Photo

merce in China jointly publicized the law on April 11.

"How visas are displayed

will also be changed," Xu said. "For example, for Z work visas, the 'duration' is currently displayed as 'ooo.'

That might cause confusion. This problem will be solved by adding a notice about related procedures on the

visa's column for remark in the future."

Xu said the new law states that the extended visa period cannot be granted for a greater than the original period on the visa. That's the biggest change.

There will now also be a new type of ID "stay permit" based on the old ones, including visa and residence card.

The new law also requires foreigners to provide biometric information such as fingerprints when they apply for a residence card.

Other regulations deal with temporary accommodation registration, illegal employment and illegal residence.

Xu said the detailed rules and regulations may undergo further changes before July.

Xuanzang's relics face demolition

By Bao Chengrong

After 14 centuries, the monk Xuanzang remains an international icon.

Born in what is today Henan Province, the humble Buddhist scholar and traveler is most renowned for his great journey to India that opened up a great cultural exchange during the Tang Dynasty.

China, India and Japan have built numerous temples to preserve Xuanzang's relics, but many are now facing difficulties.



Monks do religious activity.



Xingjiao Temple, the grave of Xuanzang

CFP Photos

Grave demolition

Xingjiao Temple, located in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, is the final resting place of Xuanzang. The temple was constructed in AD 669 for the famous monk's re-burial.

But after 1300 years as one of the most notable Buddhist temples in China, the local government has called for Xingjiao's demolition.

More than two thirds of its buildings would be knocked down to make way for another UNESCO World Heritage Site application.

A spokesman for Xi'an's Chang'an District said the removal would focus on buildings constructed by monks in later generations that "have little cultural value worth preserving."

The temple has appealed to postpone demolition because it would force the current monks out and deeply disturb their religious life.

Xingjiao Temple is one of seven sites that are part of the Chinese Silk Road UNESCO application: the other six are cultural relics that do not currently serve a religious function.

UNESCO is investigating the dispute and said it will issue its own report.

Pang Shouyong, a professor at Minzu University of China, said the demolition is logical if

the government's ultimate goal is to return the temple to its original appearance.

But even buildings constructed during the Qing Dynasty or modern era are an important part of the temple's culture, Pang said. That the pagoda in Xingjiao Temple exists at all is due to the continued efforts of monks throughout its history.

Xingyun, a master monk in Taiwan, said its natural that ancient constructions expand over the years to meet certain needs. The current face of Xingjiao Temple is evidence of its longstanding cultural value, he said.

He has called on the local government to find a less destructive solution.

The temple's renovation and maintenance used to be handled by Daming Palace Investment Group: total authority is currently in the hands of the local government.

Hometown revival

But while Xingjiao Temple is facing a crisis, the Village of Chenhe is pleased to see itself becoming a tourist site.

Located in Henan Province, Chenhe is the hometown of Xuanzang. It had been mostly forgotten by the world until Japanese monks visited in 1984.

Chen Xiaoshun said 800 monks from Yakushiji Temple in Nara came to visit, honoring

the trip of their temple founder who went to Chang'an in AD 653 to spend eight years studying Buddhism with Xuanzang.

The visit reminded the villagers of the value of their history.

In 1985, local official Dong Yukun learned that his hometown was eager for restoration. He asked his two friends, one who worked for the national literature search center and the other for the Ministry of Civil Affairs, for help.

The two gathered 13 Xuanzang researchers to discuss the town's restoration. They submitted a joint letter to the provincial government and convinced it to carry out a restoration project.

In 1989, the tourism departments of Henan Province and Luoyang City joined to donate 800,000 yuan to restore Xuanzang's ancestral temple.

In 1991, restoration started and as many as 1,800 villagers volunteered for the project.

But in the following years, villagers were disappointed with the site's limited popularity. Money shortages limited restoration to the front courtyard. The limited facilities were hardly a big draw.

That changed in 2000, when a marble sculpture of Xuanzang was donated in celebration of the 1,400th anniversary of his birth. The sculpture helped

draw many people to the village, generating 140,000 yuan in profits through ticket sales.

In 2006, a team with 16 scholars and experts wrote a joint letter with three suggestions: begin a second stage of restoration, establish a Xuanzang University and hold an annual Xuanzang Cultural Festival in Henan.

The local government responded with an investment of 230,000 yuan to improve the site, 3 million yuan to dredge the Xiushui River and 160,000 yuan to build the embankment.

But with investors showing little long-term interest, financing remains a challenge.

Xuanzang in India

Nalanda Temple in Bihar, India, was the second home of Xuanzang during his years of Buddhist study in India. It was where he wrote Buddhist Records of the Western World.

The temple was sacked by Turkish invaders in 1193 and sat in ruin for more than 600 years.

In 1915, using Xuanzang's book, Indian archaeologists began an excavation and succeeded in finding more than 10 historic ruins over 30 years. So far, the excavated area covers more than 140,000 square meters with 11 abbeys and five temples.

Early in 1956, the gov-



Xuanzang

ernments of China and India planned to cooperate in building a memorial hall for Xuanzang. Prime Minister Zhou Enlai donated special funds for the construction and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru selected an address.

However, the hall was never completed. It wasn't until 2000 that the two governments began to discuss the restoration project again.

Financial groups from China, India, Japan, Singapore and other countries invested \$500 million to build the new Nalanda University and another \$500 million for related facilities.

The Indian central government also donated more than \$660,000 to restore the main hall, and set aside the 475,000 square meters around the memorial hall for Nalanda University Cultural Village.

Although the preservation of Xuanzang's relics still faces many challenges, the increased interest in social media is bringing renewed focus to such efforts.

Changing images of C

Inside the China Pavilion of the



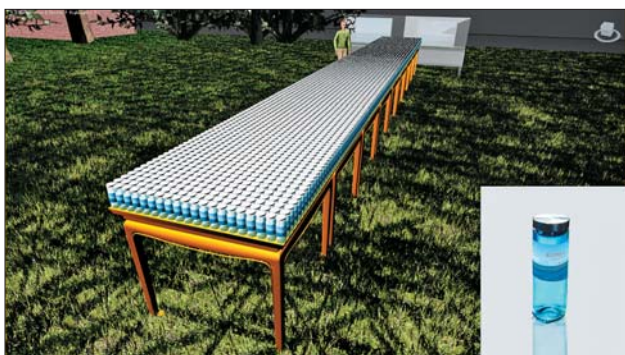
Wang Chunchen



Miao Xiaochun's plan



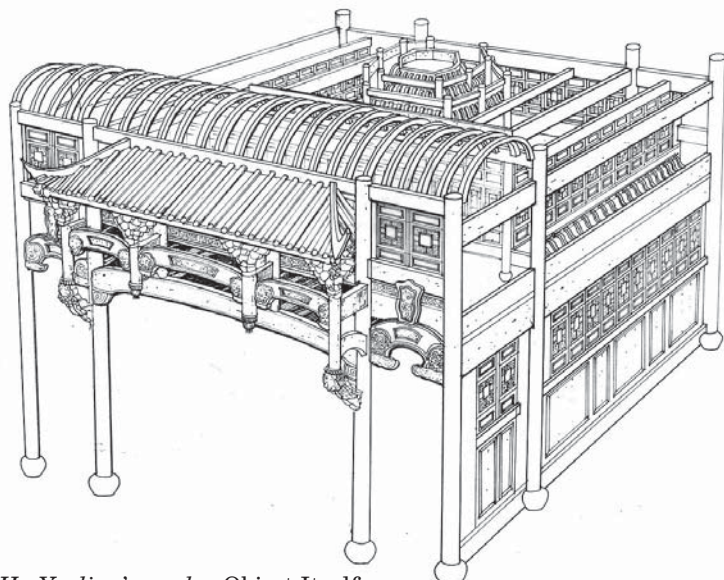
Miao Xiaochun's work – Out of Nothing 2012



He Yunchang's work – Venice Sea Water



Shu Yong's work – Ancient Brick – College Entrance Exam



Hu Yueling's work – Object Itself

By Celine Lin

Last year, curator Fang Zhenning stunned visitors to the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale with "Originaire," a series of five installations by Chinese architects, artists and designers.

Now Wang Chunchen is hoping to repeat the magic.

Wang is the curator of this year's Chinese Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale. His selected works highlight another fundamental of the artistic spirit: transfiguration.

The new collection will be on display from June 1 until November 24 at the Venice Virgin Garden and Armory.

As the head of the Department of Curatorial Research at the Central Academy of Fine Art (CAFA), Wang Chunchen is famous for his publications and translations.

His credits as a curator circle the globe, bringing the best of Chinese contemporary art abroad at each stop.

But the Biennale is special.

Artistic director Massimiliano Gioni is calling this year's Biennale "The Encyclopedic Palace," drawing on a concept by Italian artist Marion Auriti.

Auriti is a key figure, Wang said. "He intended to build an imaginary museum, which was meant to house all worldly knowledge ... yet his plan was never carried out."

"As we grapple with a flood of information, such efforts to structure knowledge into all-inclusive systems seem even more necessary and even more desperate," he said.

The Biennale will explore works of imagination in a show that – like Auriti's museum – combines works of contemporary art with historical artifacts and found objects.

United in image

Asked why Chinese Pavilion was named "Transfiguration," Wang said the idea has its roots in *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace*, a book by American art critic Arthur Danto.

Transfiguration is an element in traditional, oriental thought.

"The Chinese translation is *bianwei*: the first character means change and the second represents the 64 hexagrams of the *I Ching*," he said. "In the realm of art, change cannot occur free of social influence. Since the Biennale emphasizes imagery, we have to be

aware of what inspires its change."

Wang strives to render the changes taking place throughout the history of Chinese art. The 64 hexagrams are an artistic analog to how images can stem from the same origin but result in different outcomes.

Moreover, the root of "transfiguration" comes from the word "figure," which also has to do with images: the prefix "trans-" means to cross or to pass through. "Consequently, I think transfiguration is the most proper theme for the Chinese Pavilion," Wang said.

Wang's recent academic focus has been imagery.

"In a broader sense, images refer to what you have seen. The patterns of ancient coins, attires of different Chinese dynasties or even social landscapes can be taken to be images, which are deeply related to visual depictions," he said.

"You can say that contemporary art serves as the embodiment of visual representation."

Seven artists

Among the seven male artists Wang has invited, two are extremely low-profile and hardly considered artists.

One is Hu Yaolin, who renovates ancient Chinese architecture, and the other Tong Hongsheng, a practicing Buddhist who sees painting as the path toward enlightenment.

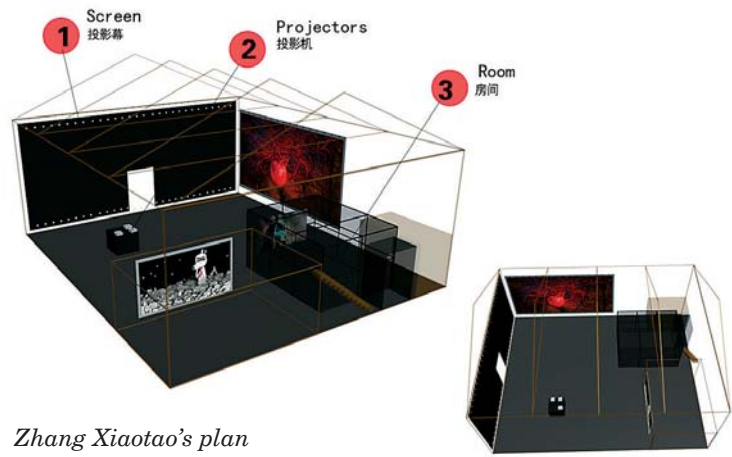
"My selection of these artists also reflects the theme of transfiguration, as their identities are shifting," Wang said.

"Tong has zero interest in participating in the Chinese art world, not to mention to holding any solo shows or attending any opening ceremonies. But he is also a painter and an ascetic monk," he said.

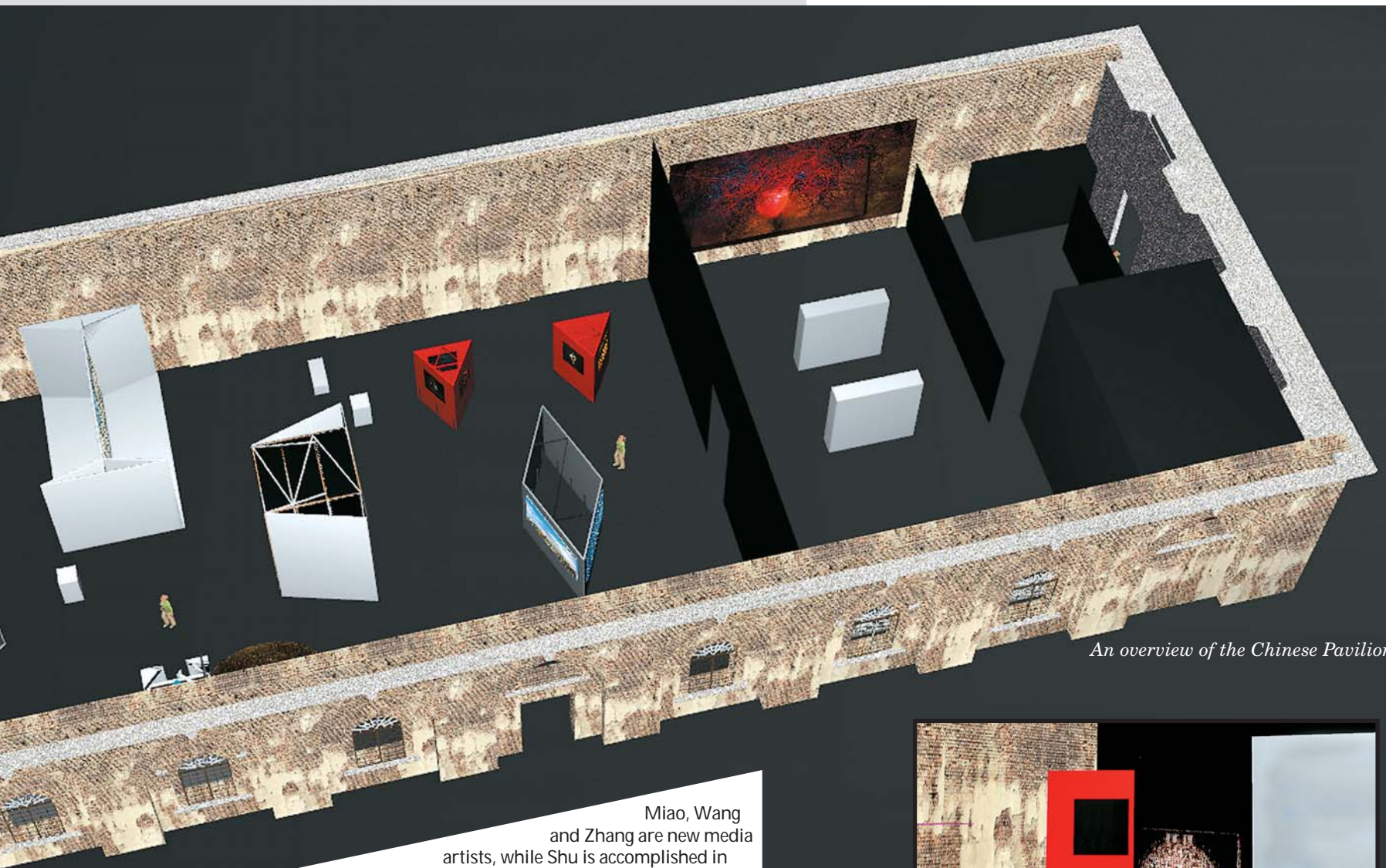
For Wang, Tong's hermit-like status is symbolic.

"Even though the society is inclined

China Venice Biennale



Zhang Xiaotao's plan



An overview of the Chinese Pavilion

to consumerism, I'd like to tell the audience that there are still people who believe in piety and lead a life with minimal material desires." He chose Hu because of his contributions in protecting historic buildings.

"Hu bought or renovated many homes that were being demolished due to the government's policies. The urban landscape has radically changed since the country began its rapid economic development, and many historic sites are unfortunately facing destruction," Wang said. "Hu has done a very good job of preserving these buildings."

Major cities such as Shanghai and Wuhan have very few ancient buildings. Even the countryside is rapidly losing its history, Wang said.

"If Hu didn't buy those historic homes, then visitors to the Biennale would have missed out on the chance to appreciate Chinese history," he said.

The other five artists are He Yunchang, Miao Xiaochun, Shu Yong, Wang Qingsong and Zhang Xiaotao.

Miao, Wang and Zhang are new media artists, while Shu is accomplished in several media, as well as performance.

But even they are hardly celebrated in the Chinese artistic world.

"Exhibition halls are an appropriate place to display new media art," Wang said. "I am trying to build a showcase of the diverse Chinese art world, which is not defined by those who are famous or whose identities are limited to what they create in art."

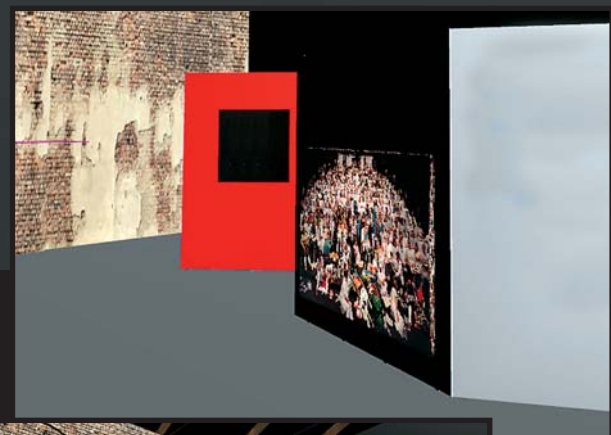
Of course, seven people can hardly present the whole picture of Chinese art. The exhibition is just a symbol.

"All in all, it's a small exhibition meant to capture the current social conditions in China, whether good or bad," Wang said.

Wang expressed guarded skepticism about the boom in large art shows in China, such as Chengdu Biennale, Shanghai Biennale, Guangzhou Triennial and Xinjiang Biennale.

"The first Venice Biennale was in 1895. In China, these exhibitions are designed to accelerate the economic progress of certain cities," he said.

"If the Chinese art world would like to have a prominent biennale, it's steady advancement that will matter."



Wang Qingsong's plan



Tong Hongsheng's plan

Photos provided by Wang Chunchen

Embracing individuality

By Chen Nan

White Night, scheduled for this month at BeijingDance/LDTX Theater, poses a question: should everything be defined as "yin" or "yang" (the two opposing principles in nature) two extremes?

Wang Yuanqing, making his debut as a choreographer, may provide some ideas.

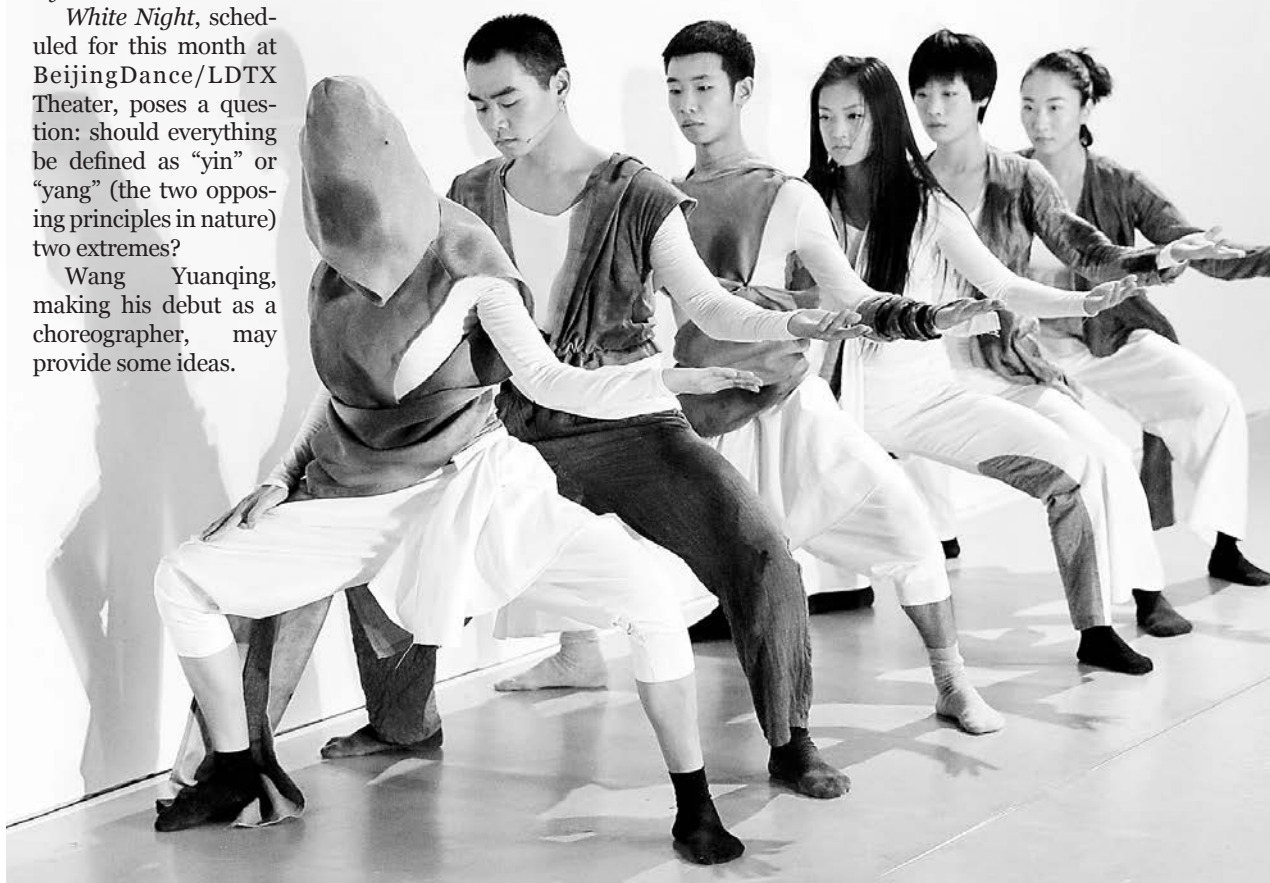


Photo provided by Ke Zhou



Realizing concepts

"White is exquisite, ambiguous and full of possibility," said Wang, 26, adding that white has the power to touch the soul. On the other hand, "night" offers people a chance to retrospect and is an outlet for emotions.

He said his inspiration for white came from a book of designs by Kenyohara, a contemporary designer at a brand called MUJI. Wang quoted the master's words and printed them on the flyer: "the creative mind will not consider an empty bowl as valueless, but see it as in a state of transition, to be filled with substance."

He also samples from masters in other art fields, such as Stan Lai, who has staged the drama *Secret Love for the Peach Blossom Spring*.

Like Lai, Wang mingles with his troupe, urging dancers to generate ideas alongside him.

They are constantly brainstorming. Through consensus, they decided "white" would be split into four parts: confession, blankness, black and white (right and wrong), and white objects.

The team tried to associate all kinds of related movements to the four keywords. They further divided objects into three groups: solid, liquid, gas.

"Sometimes we are surprised by our divergent thinking," said Tang Tingting, a dancer in the troupe, "so the images presented before the audience and be absorbed and processed in the moment."

With a few repetitive monologues, the piece requires endurance from its audience, but repays it by provoking thought.

Personal show

Original concepts usually stay intact, but they blossom into something unexpected through the process of working together, proposing questions and mull-



Photos provided by Wang Xiaojing

ing over ideas.

Wang doesn't make pieces with big effects, but looks at human reflexes from many different angles: social, emotional, personal and physical.

"I'm not interested in virtuosity or how people can jump or do something incredible," he said. "I'm interested in simplicity, the personality of dance, so that the audience can put his or her own experiences into this piece."

For instance, a female dancer repeatedly shouts, "I'm just practicing," and at the end of her part she says: "I'm just practicing to say goodbye to you." The dancer believes each day is another day; she constantly says farewell to her old days.

She said she explored grief and joy to prepare.

Several parts draw on the dancers' personal experiences. This brings lots of different experiences to the stage.

"Like the dancer Qian Kun, he wanted to become a choreographer and was bewildered by abstract concepts in this dance," Wang said. "In our talks after practices, I figured his confusion of personal identity is universal, so I staged our fragmented dialogues and showed

human loss in modern life."

As light fades, Qian stands at a distance and asks a man: "What should I do and what should I say? My director, please tell me."

Wang said this seemed like a metaphor for living, and "coping, questioning and delighting in daily life."

"I try to draw out the ideas," he said. "Once that foundation solidifies, I instantly get my cast together and build an initial structure or outline to begin filling in." He also brings in several phrases of movement that they manipulate and craft in various spatial patterns and theatrical scenarios.

Unexpected career

Wang pushes the boundaries of dance in profound and minimalist ways. The dance expert and founder of BeijingDance/LDTX, Willy Tsao, recognized this and gave him a chance to work with his troupe.

Originally from Shaanxi Province, Wang received a degree in choreography from the Beijing Dance Academy. He developed a rich body of work that delves into the comic, poignant and messy parts of humanity, while maintaining a staunch commitment to aes-

thetic form and pure visual interest.

He has worked with various international artists and has participated in activities such as the Beijing Dance Festival, the Sino-French Culture Year and the Chinese and Japanese Dance Forum. Presently, he is also an associate designer at Penghao Theater.

However he was not always captivated by dance. As a child he was fascinated by the expressiveness of music and thought. "If I were to re-frame the old classics of music in today's context, how would it sound?" he mused.

What brought him to contemporary dance was the violin. At age 9, after years of practicing, he became hunchbacked due to all his time sitting in a chair.

To correct his posture, his mother, a dancing teacher, sent him to a dance training club.

He saw a group of dancers perform at a concert and was inspired by the way they could express the deep feelings and ideas of music on a whole new level.

Instantly he was hooked, and relished being involved in the creative process and contributing to other choreographers' visions.

Finding a parallel visual expression in his dances gave him pleasure. Once he realized that this was his path, he did everything he could to make it his future: dance club, dancing festivals, going to many performances and creating dances. He even started his own dance website, Dance-Focus.com.

"Modern dance is such an open, evolving form," he said. "There are no explicit rules or rubrics and yet, in the professional, it finds its own sort of grammar that speaks deeply and fluently."

"Like writing poetry, you can put very different kinds of movements together to say something on an aesthetic level and they are free from a logical string of words."

Time to tone your body

By Annie Wei

Although the cold hasn't completely left our rooms, it's nigh time for people to start thinking about warmer days – like bikini season.

Trends such as see-through clothes will require toned tummies and thin shoulders. It's time to think about shaping up.

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted therapies and places that might help.



CFP Photos

Go on a diet

Diets only work for the determined – those willing to subsist on boiled vegetables and water.

But that's no fun.

Andy Wang, the marketing executive of Domus restaurant, managed to lose 5 kilograms by eating only beef and vegetables.

"I didn't eat anything starchy for a month," he said, "Only beef for lunch and only vegetables for dinner."

Wang said you could eat as many vegetables as you want, but it may leave you with bad breath.

Traditional Chinese medicine

For weight loss, traditional Chinese medicine works miracles. If you are building up fat because of slow circulation, you can try acupuncture at many hospitals or clinics. Normally, you'll have to go 10 times, with each session costing at least 50 yuan.

There are alternatives, like *guasha* (starting from 150 yuan each time). However, this treatment is controversial. Some doctors will scrape your skin hard, resulting in serious bruises.

Yang Dawei, an experienced scraper who runs his own clinic on Fourth Ring Road, doesn't believe in that method. His treatment is mild, and no serious bruises appear on the skin.

"Scraping aims to relieve muscle stiffness, to let the blood flow easily and help circulation," he said.

Liu Xiaomei, a patient who has visited Yang for nearly two years, goes for scraping once a week.

She broke her hip many years ago, and the poor circulation made her overweight and weak for many years. Now she has slimmed down.

Those who don't want visit regularly can try *maixian* – a traditional technique that literally meaning "burying the threads."

A skillful doctor will implant the surgical thread on your acupuncture points, which will provide constant stimulation. Your body will absorb the threads in the end.

Amanda Chen, a manager of Jianyi Mansion, has done it twice.

"It is popular among many movie stars," she said. The procedure of implanting threads is simple. "The doctor had an assistant who placed the threads at the right spots, and she quickly stamped them into my skin."

It was painful.

The doctor, somewhat ruthlessly, said "to be beautiful, no pain, no gain," as Chen told it.

Chen lost a lot of weight in the first month, but gained back some during Chinese New Year. Each *maixian* treatment requires going in three times, and costs 3,000 yuan for the first time, 2,000 for the second and 1,000 yuan for the third.

As the above are private clinics, anyone interested can email weiyang@ynet.com for contact info.

Gyms

In the end, one has to exercise to look and feel good.

Many gyms have been in the market for a long time with poor facilities, too many members during peak hours and backward management. These are the places that ask for a one-year membership, and those who sign up seldom go again after three months.

We like a small community gym called Let's Get Gravity along East Fourth Ring Road. It's a small, friendly gym about the size of a two-bedroom apartment.

It features lots of US-imported equipment that helps with weight training, and offers small classes with a coach, starting from 150 yuan per person.

Let's Get Gravity

Where: 1/F, 119, Building 27, Upper East Side compound, 6 Dong Sihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: RSVP

Tel: 5130 7001

Sports medicine clinic

For those who want to exercise but aren't sure how, go in for a consultation at the new Horizon Sports Medicine Clinic.

The clinic was established last December, with a majority of its customers being professional athletes. China's national badminton team and soccer players often go.

The idea of sports medicine remains new to a majority of Chinese who don't need physical therapy.

The clinic has experienced doctors in fields of physiotherapy who consult for the General Administration of Sport of China. However, it is quite expensive.

Where: 4/F, Sparkle Roll Plaza, 40 Xingfu'ercun, Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: RSVP

Tel: 8438 9966

Delicious Taiwanese snacks at good prices

By Annie Wei

Many people who have returned from trips to Taipei have gushed about the city's food.

When Duxiaoyue, a famous Taiwan eatery, opened its outlet in Beijing last year, it quickly snatched the attention of local food reporters and critics.

However, opinions differed – some said it was outstanding, while others complained it was not authentic.

But considering its quality versus price, we still recommend it as a place for comfort food. The presentation and attention to detail make it exceptional.

At lunch, you can get a 28-yuan set meal of rice and noodles with braised meatballs, duck egg and pickles. It's a dainty serving, but leaves you satisfied. The noodles are tossed with fried shallots, popular in Taiwan cooking, and braised meat. The soup is stewed with sweet shrimp for a long time.

After lunch, you can order classic southern street drinks such as pearl tea (16 yuan).

The restaurant has many other classic Taiwan dishes, such as oyster pancakes (22 yuan), braised pork on rice (18 yuan),

meatball and pork rib soup (24 yuan) and fruit shaved ice (20 to 28 yuan).

Something more special are grilled wuyuzi (85 yuan), mullet roe; Hakka salty pork (36 yuan) and Taiwan sausage (22 yuan).

Duxiaoyue

Where: B2, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8563 1105

Din Tai Fung – leading Taiwan restaurant for simple dishes

As one of the leading restaurants offering traditional Chinese snacks, Din Tai Fung, which started in Taiwan in 1972, has expanded not only across Asia but also other continents.

It's famous for selective ingredients – using fresh pork or shrimp instead of frozen ones – and consistent quality. The must-have is its xiaolongbao (starting from 45 yuan), dumpling filled with soup and nuggets of juicy pork.

Where: B2, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

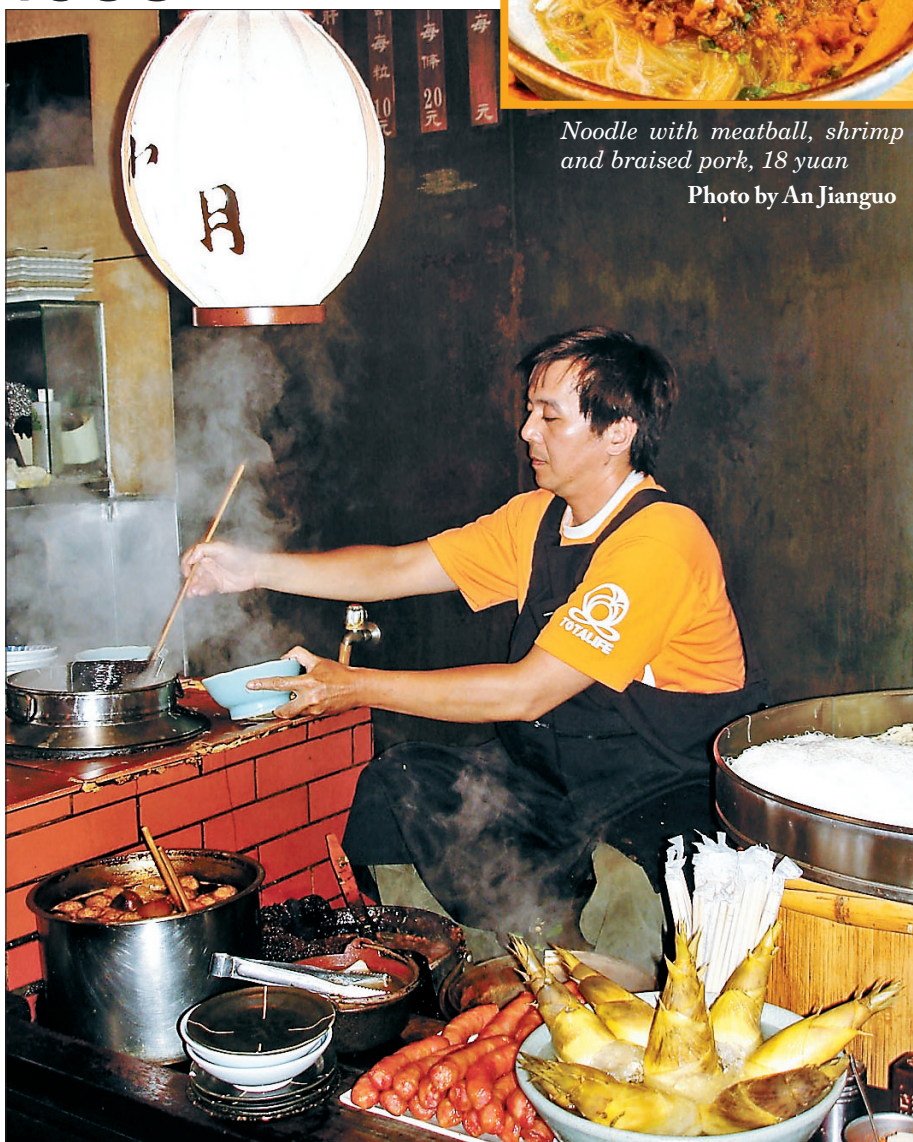
Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5690 7000



Noodle with meatball, shrimp and braised pork, 18 yuan

Photo by An Jianguo

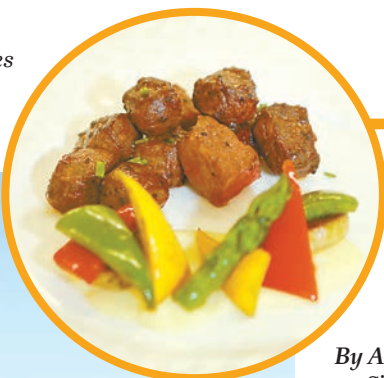


Duxiaoyue eatery in Taipei

CFP Photo

Beef and vegetables at Grill 79's menu

Photo provided by China World Summit Wing



The global wine community celebrates World Malbec Day on April 17.

CFP Photo

World Malbec Day from Argentina

By Annie Wei

Since 2011, April 17 has become World Malbec Day, a worldwide event hosted by Wines of Argentina, the organization responsible for the country's wine image.

This year, the event was not only celebrated in cities like New York, San Paulo, London and Mendoza, but also in China. Beijing's wine community can enjoy quite a few quality Argentina Malbec wines at the Pine Garden of China World Summit Wing.

When the wine organization decided to make April 17 Malbec day, it was because on the same day in 1853, a bill was submitted for the foundation of an area in Argentina and a school of agriculture. Later, the bill was enacted as law. That was also the start of Argentina's wine industry.

Now, Argentine wines are commonly seen in outlets such

as April Gourmet and Jenny Lou's. Its reputation among many young Chinese consumers is "high value for price."

Malbec, one of the famous wine grape varieties, was brought to Argentina from France at the end of the 19th century. The grape adapted well to Argentina's soil and sunny climate and was widely planted.

Its dark color, ripe concentration of flavors, rich and smooth texture with softer tannins and cleaner aromas are welcome by many wine drinkers.

Zhang Tianle, a member of the Farmer's Market, said Argentine wines were her preference.

However, the variety of in supermarkets is limited to only a few brands, with prices ranging 100 to 200 yuan per bottle.

The Malbec World Day event brought in wines from main winegrowing valleys such as North, Cuyo and Patagonia.

Cuyo is the largest and most

prolific wine region in the country and in South America, contributing to 80 percent of wine production.

What we liked most were the wines from the southern part of the country: Patagonia. The region has less rainfall, which means berries take longer to ripen, resulting in wines with intense color and flavor.

If you want to really enjoy Malbec wine, we suggest a three-course lunch or dinner steak menu with an Argentinian wine pairing available in Grill 79 from now until April 26. Prices start from 350 yuan for lunch per person, with 15 percent surcharge, and 788 yuan for dinner.

Grill 79

Where: 79th floor, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm; 5-10 pm

Tel: 8571 6460